

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Moreover, in the Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. Hei. 10 (1998)-305812, a bar for welding prevention is newly provided to remove a band. Thus, there is a problem in that another member is required, resulting in an increase ~~in a cost~~ in cost. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- ~~More, specifically,~~ More specifically, in order to detect the length of the band pulled back by the band pull-back means 84 after feeding, the following steps may be ~~operated~~ carried out. Namely, for example, the tip portion of the band is wound like a loop around the band guide arch 74 as shown in Fig. 2 and then abuts on a stopper 61 of a band guide 60 which can freely appear on a band running path in an almost horizontal direction, and by this abutment, a limit switch is turned ON. After this turning ON of the limit switch, by ~~detecting~~ detecting the number of rotations of the touch roller 88 coming in contact with the reverse rotating roller 94 of the band pull-back means 84 by pressure, the above length of the band pulled back can be detected. --